REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-57 are pending. Claims 2, 11, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26 and 35-41 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 18, 25, 42, 48 and 50 stand rejected. Claims 3-10, 20-22, 27-34, 43-47, 49 and 51-57 are objected to.

Claims 1, 3-10, 18, 20-22, 25, 27-34, 42-47, and 48-57 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No claims have been added. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claim(s) 1, 18, 25, 42, 48 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technology art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory matter under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Applicants here have amended independent claims 1, 18, 25, 42, 48, and 50 to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 18, 25, 42, 48, and 50 are now allowable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of the claims 3-10, 20-22, 27-34, 43-47, 49 and 51-57, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

At this time, however, Applicants elect not to place the limitations of the allowed claims into their corresponding independent claims 1, 18, 25, 42, 48, and 50 because Applicants respectfully submit that the revised independent claims 1, 18, 25, 42, 48, and 50 are now allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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